System of Checking at the time of Booking Goods

1273. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Will the Minister of RAIL WAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether at the time of booking goods the Railways examine the documents relating to payment of the Centra! Excise and Central Sales Tax, the consignees sale tax number, the gate pass issued by the Central Excise department; and

(b) if not, whether the railway propose to introduce the system of checking the above mentioned documents to stop the Central Excise and Sales Tax evasion ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

Reservation from Salem and Erode for Kerala Express

1274. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state'

(a) whether it is a fact that reservation available from Salem and Erode for Kerala Express (2625/2626) has been.discontinued;

(b) if so, what is the reasons therefor; and

(c) from which station/junction reservation for passengers belong to Salem and Erode will be available ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As a result of introduction of a new daily train 2617 Mangla Express w.e.f. 1-7-93, quotas earlier available to these stations by Kerala Express have been shifted to the new train. Salem, Erode and Coimbatore have been provided with computerised reservation facility in one group and passengers have free access to the total quota provided in this group on first come first served basis.

Modernisation of the Integral Coach Factory

1275. SHRI RAM GOPAL YADAV
SHRI DIG VIJAY SINGH

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the modernisation of the Integral Coach Factory has been badly hit due to the paucity of funds;

(b) if so, what are the areas of expansion of the Integral Coach Factory and the estimated cost involved; and

(c) what steps are contemplated by Government to overcome the problem of finances to take up the expansion programme of Integral Coach Factory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Placing Adeaaate Orders for Wagoas with B.C.L

1276. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways are not placing adequate orders of wagons with the Braithwaite Co. Ltd, resulting in the sickness of the company;

(b) if so, what are the details of the order placed by Railways for wagons with the Braithwaite Co. Ltd., during the year 1992-93 and 1993-94; and

(c) what is the reason for not placing adequate orders with the Braithwaite Co. Ltd.?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K, JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No. Sir.

(b) For the year 1992-93 orders for 2720 four-wheelers were placed initially. For the current year i.e., 1993-94, orders for 1237.5 four-wheelers have been placed covering the first half requirement. Orders for the second half will be placed in due course.

(c) Does not arise.

AUocatioa of Amount for Doubling of QaitoD-Trirandnun Line

1277. SHRI M. A BABY: Will the Ministo of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the amount allocated for doubling of Qulion-Trivandrum line and the expected time of its completion;

(b) what is the amount allocated for the new station building and over-bridge at Quilon station and the time to be taken for completion of the above project;

(c) the present stage of the proposal for doubling the railway line from Mangalore to Shornur and the amount required for its completion and the probable time of the commen cement and completion of the project;'and

(d) what are the railway stations in Kerala which do not have even another line in the station for crossing of trains and the period within which this problem would be rectified with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K C. LENKA): (a) The doubling of railway line between Quilon-Trivandrum (65 Kms.) has been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 8123 crores. An outlay of Rs. 1,000 has been provided during 1993-94. Time of completion has not been fixed. Pending completion of Kayanakulam-Quilon section which is in progress on priority basis, and completion of land acquisition proceedings between Quilon-Trivandrum.

(b) This will be decided after the estimates of Quilon-Trivandrum are sanctioned.

(c) The survey for doubling of Shoranur-Mangalore has been taken up. Further action will depend on results of the survey and availability of resources in the coming years.

(d) There are 20 flag stations in Kerala with single line. Second line for crossing of trains is provided depending on traffic requirement and justification from time to time.

Performance of South Eastern Railways

1278. SHRI S. AUSTIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the performance of South Eastern Railway in handling goods traffic and thereby generating revenue has improved considerably as compared to other zones;

(b) if so, the reasons for not performing well in handling goods traffic by other zones;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to develop the rail network and other facilities in South Eastern Railway in view of its economic performance; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in that regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) All the Railways have lifted goods traffic as per offer from different sectors of economy. Goods loading on South Eastern Railway has been maximum due to heavy demand from the core sectors concentrated on this Railway.

(c) and (d) A number of transport capacity augmentation and development projects involving an investment of more than Rs. 1600 crores are in progress on South Eastern Railway.

Malpractice in Finalising and Awarding Contracts in South Central Railway

1279. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any complaints against malpractices in finalising and awarding contracts in South Central Railways;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken to redress the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The complaints pertain to different wings of South Central Railway wherein irregularities in processing of tenders, acceptance of high rates, favouratism to contractors, etc. have been alleged.

(c) whenever such complaints are received, investigations are conducted by Railway Vigilance not only to identify the delinquent Railway officials for the misconduct but also to see that there are no loopholes leading to malpractices in the system of finalising and awarding of contracts.

Based on the results of the investigations, appropriate disciplinary action is taken against delinquent Railway officials in consultation with CVC besides taking corrective measures to plug the loopholes, if any.

Disposal of Surplus Land of Railways

1280. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railway is demanding for the market price of the surplus land of Railways in Surendranagar and Jamnagar districts of Gujarat;

(b) whether it is also a fact that princely States of Gujarat have given free land to Railways in Surendranagar and Jamnagar district at that time;